

WILSON FOR PEACE

WORLD ALLIANCE FINDS FAVOR
—UNION OF POWERS SHOULD
PASS ON DIFFICULTIES.

FREEDOM OF SEAS URGED

President Declares They Should Be
Open to Unhindered Use of All
Countries—Address Made Before
League to Enforce Peace.

Washington.—President Wilson declared here Saturday night before the League to Enforce Peace that the United States was ready to join any feasible association of nations to preserve the peace of the world against "political ambition and selfish hostility" and in service of "a common order, a common justice and a common peace." He expressed the hope that the present war would include such an arrangement.

Outlining suggestions for peace, which the president said he hoped the United States would make if it has opportunity to do, included provision for absolute freedom of the seas, the contention which has been the keynote of all the diplomatic discussions with Germany and Great Britain, and virtual guarantee of territorial integrity and political independence.

Officials interpreted the president's address as a preliminary feeler for peace in Europe. He outlined the conditions on which the United States would move if it made a formal mediatory offer, with the idea, it was understood, of learning how such suggestions would be received abroad.

Text of the Speech.

In full, the president spoke as follows:

"When the invitation to be here tonight came to me I was glad to accept it, not because it offered me an opportunity to discuss the program of the league—that you will, I am sure, not expect of me—but because the desire of the whole world now turns eagerly, more and more eagerly, towards the hope of peace, and there is just reason why we should take our part in counsel upon this great theme. It is right that I, as spokesman of our government, should attempt to give expression to what I believe to be the thought and purpose of the people of the United States in this vital matter.

"This great war that spoke so suddenly upon the world two years ago and which has swept within its flame so great a part of the civilized world, has affected us very profoundly, and while we are at liberty it is perhaps our duty to speak very frankly of it and of the great interests of civilization which it affects.

"With its causes and its objects we are not concerned. The obscure fountains from which its stupendous flood had burst forth we are not interested to search for or explore. But so great a flood, spread far and wide to every quarter of the globe, has of necessity engulfed many a fair province of right that lies very near to us. Our own rights as a nation, the liberties, the privileges and the property of our people have been profoundly affected. We are not mere disconnected lookers-on. The longer the war lasts, the more deeply do we become concerned that it should be brought to an end and the world permitted to resume its normal life and course again. And when it does come to an end we shall be as much concerned as the nations at war to see peace assume an aspect of permanence; give promise of days from which the anxiety of uncertainty shall be lifted; bring some assurance that peace and war shall always hereafter be reckoned part of the common interest of mankind. We are participants, whether we would or not, in the life of the world. The interests of all nations are our own also. We are partners with the rest. What affects mankind is inevitably our affair as well as the affair of the nations of Europe and of Asia.

"One observation on the causes of the present war we are at liberty to make, and to make it may throw some light forward upon the future as well as backward upon the past. It is plain that this war could have come only as it did, suddenly and out of secret councils, without warning to the world, without discussions, without any of the deliberate movements of counsel with which it would seem natural to approach so stupendous a contest. It is probable that if it had been foreseen just what would be formed, just what forces arrayed against one another, those who brought the great contest on would have been glad to have substituted conference for force.

Code of Honor Necessary.

"If we, ourselves, had been afforded some opportunity to apprise the belligerents of the attitude which it would be our duty to take, our policies and practice, against which we would be bound to use our moral and economic strength and in certain circumstances our physical strength also, our own contributions to the councils which might have avoided the struggle would have been considered worth weighing and regarded. The lesson which the shock of being taken by surprise in a matter so deeply vital to all the nations of the world has made so plainly clear, is that the peace of the world must henceforth depend upon more wholesome diplomacy. Only when the great nations of the world have reached some sort of agreement as to what they hold to be fundamental to their common interests, and as

to some feasible method of acting in concert when any nation or group of nations seeks to disturb those fundamental things can we feel that civilization is at last in a way of justifying its existence and claiming to be finally established. It is clear that nations must in the future be governed by the same high code of honor that we demand of individuals.

"We must, indeed, in the very same breath with which we avow this conviction admit that we have ourselves upon occasions in the past been offenders against the law of diplomacy which we thus forecast; but our conviction is not the less clear, but rather the more clear on that account. If this war has accomplished nothing else for the benefit of the world, it has at least disclosed a great moral necessity and set forward the thinking statesmen of the world by a whole age. Repeated utterance of the leading statesmen of most of the great nations now engaged in the war have made it plain that their thought has come to this, 'that the principle of public right must henceforth take precedence over the individual interest of particular nations, and that the nations of the world must in some way band themselves together to see that that right prevails as against any sort of selfish aggression; that henceforth alliance must not be set up against alliance, understanding against understanding, but that there must be a common agreement for common object, and that at the heart of that common object must lie the inviolable rights of peoples and of mankind. The nations of the world have become each other's neighbors. It is to their interest that they should understand each other. In order that they may understand each other, it is imperative that they should agree to co-operate in a common cause, and that they should so act that the guiding principle of that common cause shall be even handed and impartial justice.

Right to Choose Sovereignty.

"This is undoubtedly the thought of the American people. This is what we ourselves will say when there comes proper occasion to say it. In the dealings of nations with one another arbitrary force must be rejected and we must move forward to the thought of the modern world, that thought of which peace is the very atmosphere. That thought constitutes a chief part of the passionate conviction of America.

"We believe these fundamental things: first, that every people has a right to choose the sovereignty under which they shall live. Like other nations, we have ourselves, no doubt, once and again offended against that principle when for a little while controlled by selfish passion as our franker historians have been honorable enough to admit; but it has become more and more our rule of life and action.

"Second, that the small states of the world have a right to enjoy the same respect for their sovereignty and for their territorial integrity that great and powerful nations expect and insist upon. And, third, that the world has a right to be free from every disturbance of its peace that has its origin in aggression and disregard of the rights of peoples and nations.

"So sincerely do we believe in the things that I am sure that I speak the mind and wish of the people of America when I say that the United States is willing to become a partner in any feasible association of nations formed in order to realize the objects and make them secure against violation.

"There is nothing the United States wants for itself that any other nation has. We are willing, on the contrary, to limit ourselves along with them to a prescribed course of duty and respect for the rights of others which will check any selfish passion of our own, as it will check any aggressive impulse of theirs.

Outlines a Program.

"If it should ever be our privilege to suggest or initiate a movement for peace among the nations now at war, I am sure that the people of the United States would wish their government to move along these lines:

"First, such a settlement with regard to their own immediate interests as the belligerents may agree upon. We have nothing material of any kind to ask for ourselves and are quite aware that we are in no sense or degree parties to the present quarrel. Our interest is only in peace and its future guarantees. Second, a universal association of the nations to maintain the inviolate security of the high way of the seas for the common and unhindered use of all these nations of the world, and to prevent any war begun either contrary to treaty covenants or without warning, and full submission of the causes to the opinion of the world—a virtual guarantee of territorial integrity and political independence.

"But I did not come here, let me repeat, to discuss a program. I came only to vow a creed and give expression to the confidence I feel that the world is now even upon the eve of a great consummation when some common force will be brought into existence which will safeguard right as the first and most fundamental interest of all the governments, when coercion shall be summoned not to the service of political ambition or selfish hostility, but to the service of a common order, a common justice and a common peace. God grant that the dawn of that day of frank dealing and of settled peace, concord and cooperation may be near at hand."

Bad Cyclone in Nebraska.

Hartington, Neb.—A cyclone swept across Cedar county from the southwest to the northwest during the night of May 26

VIGOROUS NOTE TO ENTENTE POWERS

UNITED STATES DENOUNCES THE SEIZURE OF NEUTRAL MAILS.

JOLTS BRITAIN AND FRANCE

American Commercial Interests Have Been and Are Now Great Sufferers as Result of "Lawless Practice"—Claims Soon Will Be Pressed for Losses Already Sustained.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The United States, denouncing interference with neutral mails, has notified Great Britain and France that it can no longer tolerate the wrongs which American citizens have suffered and continue to suffer through the "lawless practice" those governments have indulged in, and that only a radical change in policy, restoring the United States to its full rights as a neutral power, will be satisfactory.

This notification is given in the latest American communication to the two governments. The time in which the change must be effected is not specified, but the United States expects prompt action.

"Onerous and vexatious abuses which have been perpetrated by the British and French governments in seizing and censoring neutral mails recited in the communication, and answers are made to the legal arguments contained in the reply of the entente governments to the first American note on the subject. It is vigorously set forth that not only have American commercial interests been injured, but that the rights of property have been violated and the rules of international law and custom palpably disregarded. Notice is served that the United States soon will press claims against the British and French governments for the losses which already have been sustained.

Text of the Note.

The text of the communication addressed to the British and French ambassadors follows:

"Department of State, Washington, May 24, 1916.—Excellency: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your excellency's note of April 3, last, transmitting a memorandum dated February 15, 1916, and communicated in substance to the American ambassador in London, February 28, in which are stated the contentions of the British and French governments in regard to the right to detain and examine parcel and letter mails en route by sea between the United States and Europe.

"After discussion of the use of the mails for transmission of parcels and of the limitations to be placed on 'inviolable mail,' the joint memorandum of February 15 closes with the following assertions:

"1. That from the standpoint of the right of visitation and eventual arrest and seizure of merchandise transported in post parcels needs not and shall not be treated otherwise than merchandise shipped in any other manner.

"2. That the inviolability of postal correspondence stipulated by the eleventh convention of The Hague of 1907 does not in any way affect the right of the allied governments to visit and if occasion arise arrest and seize merchandise hidden in the wrappers, envelopes or letters contained in the mail bags.

"3. That true to their engagements and respectful of genuine 'correspondence,' the allied governments will continue for the present to refrain on the high seas from seizing and confiscating such correspondence, letters or dispatches, and will insure their speediest possible transmission as soon as the sincerity of their character shall have been ascertained."

Contention of Uncle Sam.

"In reply the government of the United States desires to state that it does not consider that the postal union convention of 1906 necessarily applies to the interferences by the British and French governments with the overseas transportation of mails. Of which the government of the United States is complaining. Furthermore, the allied powers appear to have overlooked the admission of the government of the United States that post parcels may be treated as merchandise subject to the exercise of belligerent rights as recognized by international law. But the government of the United States does not admit that such parcels are subject to the 'exercise of the rights of police supervision, visitation and eventual seizure which belongs to belligerents as to all cargoes on the high seas,' as asserted in the joint note under acknowledgment.

"It is noted with satisfaction that the British and French governments do not claim, and in the opinion of this government, properly do not claim that their so called 'blockade' measures are sufficient grounds upon which to base a right to interfere with all classes of mail matter in transit to or from the central powers. On the contrary, their contention appears to be that 'as genuine correspondence' is under conventional stipulation 'inviolable' mail matter of other classes is subject to detention and examination. While the government of the United States agrees that genuine correspondence mail is inviolable, it does

not admit that belligerents may search other private sea-borne mails for any other purpose than to discover whether they contain articles of enemy ownership carried on belligerent vessels or articles of contraband transmitted under sealed cover as letter mail, though they may intercept at sea all mails coming out of and going into ports of the enemy coasts which are effectively blockaded. The governments of the United States, Great Britain and France, however, appear to be in substantial agreement as to principle. The method of applying the principle is the chief cause of difference.

Ignore All Assurances.

"Though giving assurances that they consider 'genuine correspondence' to be 'inviolable,' and that they will, 'true to their engagements,' refrain on the high seas from seizing and confiscating such correspondence, the allied governments proceed to deprive neutral governments of the benefits of these assurances by seizing and confiscating mail from vessels in port instead of at sea. They compel neutral ships, without just cause, to enter their own ports, or they induce shipping lines, through some form of duress, to send their mails in ships via British ports or they detain all vessels merely calling at British ports, thus acquiring by force or unjustifiable means an illegal jurisdiction. Acting upon this enforced jurisdiction the authorities remove all mail, genuine correspondence as well as post parcels, take them to London, where every piece, even though of neutral origin and destination, is opened and critically examined to determine the sincerity of their capture, in accordance with the interpretation given that undefined phrase by the British and French censors. Finally the expurgated remainder is forwarded frequently after irreparable delay to its destination. Ships are detained en route to or from the United States or to or from other neutral countries, and mails are held and delayed for several days, and in some cases, for weeks and even months, even though not routed to ports of north Europe via British ports. This has been the procedure practiced since the announcement of February 15, 1916. To some extent the same practice was followed before that date, calling forth the protest of this government of January 4, 1916. But to that protest the memorandum under acknowledgment makes no reference and is entirely unresponsive.

"The government of the United States must again insist with emphasis that the British and French governments do not obtain rightful jurisdiction of ships by forcing or inducing them to visit their ports for the purpose of seizing their mails, or thereby obtain belligerent rights as to such ships than they could exercise on the high seas; for there is, in the opinion of the government of the United States no legal distinction between the seizure of mails at sea, which is announced as abandoned, and their seizure from vessels voluntarily or involuntarily in port. The British and French practice amounts to an unwarranted limitation of the use by neutrals of the world's highway for the transmission of correspondence. The practice actually followed by the allied powers must be said to justify the conclusion, therefore, that the announcement of February 15 was merely notice that one illegal practice should be abandoned to make place for the development of another more onerous and vexatious in character.

Hague Rule Violated.

"The present practice is in violation not only of the spirit of the announcement of February 15, but of the rule of The Hague convention upon which it is concededly based. Aside from this it is a violation of the prior practice of nations which Great Britain and her allies have in the past assisted to establish and maintain notwithstanding the statement in the memorandum that as late as 1907 the letters and dispatches themselves could be seized and confiscated. During the war between the United States and Mexico, the United States forces allowed British steamers to enter and depart from the port of Vera Cruz without molesting the mails intended for inland points. During the American civil war Lord Russell endeavored to induce the United States to concede that 'Her Majesty's mails on board a private vessel should be exempted from visitation or detention.' This exemption of mails was urged in October 1862, in the case of British mails on board the *Abela*. On October 21, Secretary Seward announced that 'public mails of any friendly or neutral power duly certified or authenticated as such shall not be searched or opened but be put as speedily as may be convenient on the way to their destination.' In accordance with this announcement the government of the United States in the case of the British steamship *Peterhoff* which had been seized with its mails against the protest of her Majesty's government, had her mails forwarded to destination unopened.

"The same rule was followed by France, as I am advised, in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870; by the United States in the Spanish-American war of 1898; by Great Britain in the South African war, in the case of the German mail steamers, *Bundesrath* and *General*; by Japan and subsequently by Russia, in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904. And even in the present war, as the memorandum of Great Britain and France states, their enemy, Germany, has desisted from the practice of interfering with neutral mails, even on board belligerent steamers. This is illustrated by the case of the French steamer, *Florida*, captured by the auxiliary cruiser *Prinz Eitel Friedrich* cited by the British and French governments in support of their argument

regarding parcel mails. In this case, the letter mails of the *Florida*, amounting to 144 sacks, were forwarded to their destination by the commander at the first opportunity on arriving in the United States. It would seem therefore to be conclusively established that the interference with mails of which this government justly complains are wrong in principle and practice.

Methods Disastrous.

"The arbitrary methods employed by the British and French governments have resulted most disastrously to citizens of the United States. Important papers which never can be duplicated, or can be duplicated only with great difficulty, such as United States patents for inventions, rare documents, legal papers relating to the settlement of estates, powers of attorneys, fire insurance claims, income tax returns and similar matters, have been lost. Delays in receiving such documents have caused great loss and inconvenience by preventing prompt delivery of goods. In the case of the Macniff Horticultural company, of New York, large shipments of plants and bulbs from Holland were, I am informed, frozen on the wharves because possession could not be obtained in the absence of documents relating to them which had been removed from the *New Amsterdam*, *Oosterdyk* and *Rotterdam*. Business opportunities are lost by failure to transmit promptly, bids, specifications and contracts. The Standard Underground Cable company, of Pittsburgh, for example, sent by mail a tender and specifications for certain proposed electrical works to be constructed in Christiania; after several weeks of waiting, the papers having failed to arrive, the American company was told that the bids could not be longer held open and the contract was awarded to a British competitor. Checks, drafts, money orders, securities and similar property are lost or detained for weeks and months. Business correspondence relating to legitimate and bona fide trade between neutral countries, correspondence of a personal nature, and also certain official correspondence, such as money order lists and other matters forwarded by government departments, are detained, lost or possibly destroyed. For instance, the postmaster general informs me that certain international money order lists from the United States to Germany, Greece and other countries and from Germany to the United States, sent through the mails, have not reached their destination, though dispatched several months ago. It was necessary to have some of these lists duplicated and again dispatched by the steamship *Frederick VIII*, which sailed from New York on April 19, and from which all the mails intended for Germany have been taken and held in British jurisdiction. As a further example of the delay and loss consequent upon the British practice, the postmaster general also sends me a copy of a letter from the British postal administration admitting that the mails were removed from the steamer *Medan*, in the Downs on January 30 last, and not forwarded until some time between the 2d of February and the 2d of March, and that 182 bags of these mails 'were lost during transmission to Holland on the 26th of February to the Dutch ship *Mecklenburg*.' The *Medan* arrived safely at Rotterdam a day or two after she left the Downs. Numerous complaints similar to the foregoing have been received by this government, the details of which are available, but I believe I have cited sufficient facts to show the unprecedented and vexatious nature of the interference with mails persisted in by British and French authorities.

American Interests Injured.

"Not only are American interests injured, but the rights of property are violated and the rules of international law and custom are palpably disregarded. I can only add that this continuing offense has led to such losses to American citizens and to a possible responsibility of the United States to repair them that this government will be compelled in the near future to press claims for full reclamation upon the attention of his Majesty's government and that of the French republic.

"The principle being plain and definite and the present practice of the governments of Great Britain and France being clearly in contravention of the principle, I will state more in detail the position of the government of the United States in regard to the treatment of certain classes of sealed mails under a strict application of the principle upon which our governments seem to be in general accord. The government of the United States is inclined to the opinion that the class of mail matter which includes stocks, bonds, coupons and similar securities is to be regarded as of the same nature as merchandise or other articles of property and subject to the same exercise of belligerent rights. Money orders, checks, drafts, notes and other negotiable instruments which may pass as the equivalent of money, are, it is considered, also to be classed as merchandise. Correspondence including shipping documents, money order lists and papers of that character, even though relating to 'enemy supplies or exports,' unless carried on the same ship as the property referred to, are in the opinion of this government, to be regarded as 'genuine correspondence' and entitled to unimpeded passage. The government of the United States, in view of the improper methods employed by the British and French authorities in interrupting mails passing between the United States and other neutral countries and between the United States and the enemies of Great Britain, can no longer tolerate the wrongs which citizens of the United States suffer and continue to suffer through these methods. To submit to a lawless practice of this

character would open the door to repeated violations of international law by the belligerent powers on the ground of military necessity, of which the violators would be the sole judge. Manifestly a neutral nation cannot permit its rights on the high seas to be determined by belligerents, or the exercise of those rights to be permitted or denied arbitrarily by the government of a warring nation. The rights of neutrals are as sacred as the rights of belligerents, and must be as strictly observed.

"The government of the United States, confident in the regard for international law and the rights of neutrals with the British and French governments have so often proclaimed and the disregard of which they have urged so vigorously against their enemies in the present war, expects the present practice of the British and French authorities in the treatment of mails from or to the United States to cease, and belligerents' rights as exercised to conform to the principle governing the passage of mail matter and to the recognized practice of nations. Only a radical change in the present British and French policy, restoring to the United States its full rights as a neutral power, will satisfy this government.

"I have, etc., Robert Lansing."

BIG SUM FROM REVENUE TAX.

Will Reach Over Half a Billion Dollars, Estimate.

Washington, D. C.—Half a billion dollars will be the government's internal revenue tax toll for the fiscal year ending June 30 next, according to a statement issued by Secretary McAdoo. This sum, which McAdoo says exceeds by many millions all previous estimates, will be made up substantially as follows:

Taxes on whiskey, beer, cigars, cigarettes and tobacco, \$303,000,000.
Taxes on the incomes of individuals and corporations, \$115,000,000.
Emergency tax collections, \$83,000,000.

The volume of money pouring into the treasury has steadily increased more and more since last fall, until it is now greater than at any time since the effects of the war began to be felt.

Waite Satisfied to Die.

New York.—A declaration that he wishes no appeal in his behalf was contained in a statement from his cell in the Tombs May 28 by Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, convicted Saturday of the murder of his father-in-law, John E. Peck, of Grand Rapids, Mich. "I am satisfied with the verdict," he said, "and don't want any appeal made by Walter R. Deuel (Waite's chief counsel) or any one else. I am willing to take the punishment for my evil deeds, and the quicker that punishment comes the better."

To Study Oil Industries.

Washington.—The seriousness with which naval officials view the threatened loss to the navy of the California oil reserve fields through enactment of legislation legalizing certain entries on the lands is reflected in the announcement by Rear Admiral Griffin, acting secretary of the navy, that a special board of officers had been appointed to study the question of oil industries in the United States, with particular attention to the present and future supply available for national fuel.

Knife Used On Hill.

St. Paul, Minn.—James J. Hill, railroad builder, capitalist and pioneer, underwent a critical operation Saturday afternoon. Mr. Hill rallied quickly and favorably from the operation. There was no alarming fever and his temperature was very good. Physicians only fear because of the patient's extreme age. Mr. Hill has been suffering with a carbuncle on the posterior of his thigh, which has resulted from bowel trouble.

Second Ford Party May Sail.

Detroit, Mich.—Henry Ford, who organized the Ford peace expedition which sailed for Europe last winter, may return to Europe to renew his efforts to bring about peace among the warring nations. This possibility was made public by Theodore De Lavigne, who is in close touch with Mr. Ford. He said Mr. Ford might sail for Stockholm about June 15.

Man Who Saved Paris Dead.

Paris.—Gen. Joseph S. Gallieni, former minister of war, died at Versailles May 27. While Von Kluck's army was rapidly advancing on Paris Gallieni hurled force against flank and started great victory of Marne. Shortly before his death an operation for transfusion of blood was performed, but it had little effect.

Hailstorm Sweeps Oklahoma.

Enid, Okla.—Northern Oklahoma was swept by wind and hail storms Sunday, with the damage centering around Garfield county. Seven buildings were wrecked at Fairmount.

Lower Court Upheld.

Chicago.—The United States circuit court of appeals has upheld the lower court, holding that Joseph Leiter could not be compelled to pay notes for \$257,390.71 because they were, under the statutes, gambling debts.

Rome to Turn Clocks Ahead.

Rome.—The daylight saving scheme has been adopted in Rome. An official decree published orders that the clocks be advanced one hour beginning at midnight June 3.